

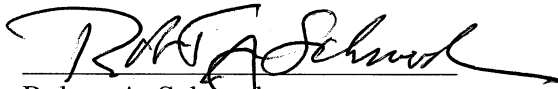
ROUTE PERMIT
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
TWO HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES
IN
RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA
ISSUED TO
FARIBAULT ENERGY PARK, LLC
MEQB DOCKET NO. 04-79-TR-FEP

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 116C.57 and Minnesota Rules chapter 4400, this Route Permit is hereby issued to

FARIBAULT ENERGY PARK, LLC

Faribault Energy Park, LLC is authorized by this permit to construct two new 115 kilovolt transmission lines approximately 400 feet long to connect the Faribault Energy Park Generating Facility with the transmission grid, along a route identified in this Permit and in compliance with the conditions specified in this Permit.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD


Robert A. Schroeder
Chair

Issued: May 20, 2004

I. ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board hereby issues this Route Permit to Faribault Energy Park, LLC, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116C.57 and Minnesota Rules chapter 4400. This permit authorizes FEP to construct two 115 kilovolt transmission lines approximately 400 feet long and associated facilities on property owned by FEP in Rice County, Minnesota.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The high voltage transmission lines authorized to be constructed under this Permit consist of two 115 kilovolt lines that will be double-circuited on the same structures. The structures will be H-frame wood structures approximately 60 feet high. The transmission lines will connect the new Faribault Energy Park Generating Facility with the existing Lake Marion-West Faribault 115 kV line owned by Xcel Energy.

III. DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Environmental Quality Board in this permit connects a small substation that is part of the new Faribault Energy Park Generating Facility with the Lake Marion-West Faribault 115 kV line approximately 400 feet to the west. The route is entirely on property owned by Faribault Energy Park, LLC. The Generating Facility will be located in the southwest one quarter of the northeast one quarter of Section 13, Township 110N, Range 21W. A map showing the site designated for the Generating Facility is attached to the Site Permit for that facility.

IV. PERMIT CONDITIONS

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during construction of the pipeline and the life of this Permit.

A. Construction Practices.

1. The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in the Application, unless this Permit establishes a different requirement in which case this Permit shall prevail.
2. The Permittee shall notify the EQB at least 14 days before construction of the transmission lines begin.
3. The Permittee shall locate all transmission structures on property owned by the Permittee.
4. The Permittee shall repair all private roads and lands damaged during construction of the transmission lines.

5. The Permittee shall implement reasonable measures to minimize runoff during construction and shall plant or seed areas where structures are installed.

B. Completion of Construction

1. **Notification.** At least three days before the line is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the EQB of the date on which the line will be charged and the date on which construction was complete.
2. **As-Builts.** Upon request of the EQB, the Permittee shall submit copies of all the final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.
3. **GPS Data.** Within sixty days of completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the EQB, in the format requested by the EQB, geo-spatial information (GIS compatible maps, GPS coordinates, etc.) for all above ground structures associated with the transmission lines and each substation connected.

C. Electrical Performance Standards.

1. **Grounding.** The Permittee shall design, construct, and operate the transmission line in such a manner that the maximum steady-state short-circuit current shall be limited to five milliamperes rms alternating current between the ground and any non-stationary object within the right-of-way including but not limited to, large motor vehicles and agricultural equipment. All fixed metallic objects on or off the right-of-way, except electric fences that parallel or cross the right-of-way, shall be grounded to the extent necessary to limit the short circuit current between ground and the object so as not to exceed one milliamperes rms under steady state conditions of the transmission line and to comply with the ground fault conditions specified in the National Electric Safety Code.
 2. **Electric Field.** The transmission line shall be designed, constructed, and operated in such a manner that the electric field measured one meter above ground level immediately below the transmission line shall not exceed 8.0 kV/m rms.
 3. **Radio and Television Interference.** Where radio or television interference is caused by the presence or operation of the transmission line, the Permittee shall take whatever action is prudently feasible to restore or provide reception equivalent to reception levels in the immediate area just prior to the construction of the line.
- D. Applicable Codes.** The Permittee shall comply with applicable Rural Utilities Service (RUS) construction standards and requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) including clearances to ground, clearance to crossing utilities, clearance to buildings, right-of way widths, erecting power poles, and stringing of transmission line conductors.

E. Other Requirements. The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the required permits is included in the permit application and the environmental assessment.

F. Delay in Construction. If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years from the date of issuance of this Permit, the EQB shall consider suspension of the Permit in accordance with Minn. Rules part 4400.3750.

V. PERMIT AMENDMENT

This permit may be amended at any time by the Environmental Quality Board. Any person may request an amendment of this permit by submitting a request to the Chair in writing describing the amendment sought and the reasons for the amendment. The Chair will mail notice of receipt of the request to the Permittee. The EQB may amend the permit after affording the Permittee and interested persons such process as is required.

VI. TRANSFER OF PERMIT

The Permittee may request at any time that the Environmental Quality Board transfer this permit to another person or entity. The Permittee shall provide the name and description of the person or entity to whom the permit is requested to be transferred, the reasons for the transfer, a description of the facilities affected, and the proposed effective date of the transfer. The person to whom the permit is to be transferred shall provide the EQB with such information as the EQB shall require to determine whether the new permittee can comply with the conditions of the permit. The EQB may authorize transfer of the permit after affording the Permittee, the new permittee, and interested persons such process as is required.

VII. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE PERMIT

The Environmental Quality Board may initiate action to revoke or suspend this permit at any time. The EQB shall act in accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Rules part 4400.3950 to revoke or suspend the permit.